

First-Time Freshmen in California Colleges and Universities to Fall 1996

A CALIFORNIA POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION COMMISSION FACTSHEET



College-going Rates of High School Graduates

In 1996, the proportion of California high school graduates choosing to enroll in the state's public postsecondary institutions was 52.7 percent -- nearly identical to the 1995 rate of 52.6 percent, as Display 1 illustrates. This level of participation was spurred primarily by increases in the proportions of these graduates choosing to enroll in our public universities.

While the number of first-time freshmen at the State's community colleges also rose somewhat, that growth did not keep pace with the increasing size of the graduating class. As a result, the proportion of high school seniors enrolling in that system was slightly lower than the previous year. Of the 1995-96 high school graduates, 101,165 chose to enroll in California Community Colleges in Fall 1996 -- 285 more than last year. However, because of the larger size of this year's graduating class, the college-going rate of these graduates was 35.4 percent -- a small drop from last year's rate of 36 percent. Over the last five years, the proportion of high school graduates enrolling at community colleges dropped from a high of 37.2 percent in 1992 to 35 percent in 1994 and continues to fluctuate between 35-36 percent.

The proportion of California high school graduates choosing to enroll at campuses of the California State University continues to increase. In fall 1996, 9.8 percent entered this system -- the highest college-going rate for this

system since 1991. The 1996 entering class -- 28,071 new freshmen -- is also nearly 3,000 students larger than the entering class of 1991.

The 1996 freshman class at the University of California included 22,108 California high school graduates -- 7.7 percent of last year's high school graduating class. Since 1993, the freshman class from California high schools has increased each year by approximately 1,000 students.

Participation of Diverse Student Groups

Among recent public high school graduates from different racial-ethnic groups, the patterns of participation in public higher education varied substantially, as Display 2 shows:

- Asian public high school graduates decreased their participation in the community colleges and increased their participation at the state's public universities, particularly at the University of California.
- The participation of Black public high school graduates declined somewhat at the community colleges and the University of California but it increased by 1.2 percentage points at the State University.
- Changes in the number and participation of Filipino students graduating from the state's public high schools who enrolled in its public postsecondary institutions were similar to those of Asian high school graduates.

DISPLAY 1 College-Going Rates of California High School Graduates, Fall 1991 to Fall 1996

Fall	High School Graduates	California Community Colleges		California State University		University of California		College Going Rate
		Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	
1991	256,294	95,122	37.1	25,087	9.8	18,246	7.1	54.0
1992	267,861	99,759	37.2	21,093	7.9	19,188	7.2	52.3
1993	272,800	100,685	36.9	20,502	7.5	19,253	7.1	51.5
1994	277,383	97,069	35.0	23,409	8.4	20,303	7.3	50.8
1995	280,352	100,880	36.0	25,606	9.1	21,140	7.5	52.6
1996	286,069	101,165	35.4	28,071	9.8	22,108	7.7	52.7

- ♦ The smallest changes in participation occurred among Latino public high school graduates whose low college-going rate declined slightly. Their participation at the community colleges remained constant; their rate of participation increased by 0.3 percentage points at the State University; it declined by that same percentage at the University of California.
- ♦ The pattern of change in the participation of White public high school graduates is similar to that of Asian and Filipino graduates but somewhat less pronounced. White graduates decreased their participation at community colleges while increasing their participation at the State University and the University of California by the same amount.
- ♦ Five regions of the states experienced increases in the proportions of their graduates enrolling in all three public systems -- the greater Sacramento region, the South-Central Coast region, Los Angeles County, the North Central Valley, and Northern California.
- ♦ The San Francisco Bay region continues to have the largest college-going rate of any region despite a reduction in the proportion of its graduates enrolling in community colleges. The university-going rate increased in this region by nearly two percentage points.
- ♦ The college-going rate in the greater Sacramento region continues to improve with larger proportions of its graduates enrolling in all three public systems. The proportion of this region's graduates who enrolled in community colleges was the highest in the state.
- ♦ The college-going rates of graduates from Orange County high schools and from high schools in the South Central Valley declined, primarily because of decreases in community college participation.
- ♦ The college-going rate for Los Angeles County graduates exceeded the statewide average, while the San Diego/Imperial county region dropped below the statewide average due primarily to decreases in the percentage of its graduates who enrolled in the community colleges.
- ♦ While the proportion of high school graduates in the Riverside/San Bernardino county region enrolling at the State University increased, this region's college-going rate slipped further behind all other regions as its community college going rate dropped substantially.

DISPLAY 2 *College-Going Rates of Recent California High School Graduates, Fall 1995 and Fall 1996*

Group	CCC		CSU		UC	
	1995	1996	1995	1996	1995	1996
Asian	33.6	31.7	12.4	12.7	20.8	21.7
Black	38.5	38.0	9.3	10.5	3.9	3.6
Filipino	46.6	44.0	14.7	16.4	9.2	9.6
Latino	33.6	33.6	7.3	7.6	3.5	3.2
White	34.3	33.1	6.7	7.1	5.4	5.8

Regional differences

Changes in college-going rates among ten geographic regions of the state tended to be quite variable, as presented in Display 3.

DISPLAY 3 *Regional Participation Rates of California High School Graduates as First-Time Freshmen, 1996*

Region	High School Graduates	California Community Colleges		California State University		University of California		Total College Going Rate
		Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	
San Francisco Bay	53,402	20,541	38.5	6,041	11.3	949	11.1	60.9
Sacramento Area	14,621	6,314	43.2	1,428	9.8	982	6.7	59.7
South-Central Coast	18,038	7,343	40.7	1,320	7.3	1,251	6.9	55.0
Orange County	24,332	8,437	34.7	2,290	9.4	2,476	10.2	54.3
Los Angeles County	78,315	26,978	34.4	8,711	11.1	735	8.6	54.2
State Average			35.4		9.8		7.7	53.6
San Diego/Imperial	24,232	8,447	34.9	2,401	9.9	1,911	7.9	52.7
North Central Valley	14,115	5,740	40.7	1,118	7.9	525	3.7	52.3
South Central Valley	19,871	7,118	35.8	1,919	9.7	634	3.2	48.7
Northern California	11,023	3,822	34.7	901	8.2	374	3.4	46.2
Riverside/San Bernardino	28,120	6,425	22.8	2,104	7.5	1,384	4.9	35.3